Below is a variety of information from several sources.
Enjoy!!!
Ken

[hipaalive] Info on Seminars/Conferences   (below)
[hipaalive] Approaches to HIPAA   (below)
(hipaalive) Updated schedule per William Braithwaite presentation   (below)
(hipaalive) Privacy Checklist (attached)
(hipaalive) Privacy Assessment (attached)
(hipaalive) Assessment Tools and Conference Info (below)
(hipaalive) HIPAA seems to apply to and Encounter Data (below)
(hipaalive) Privacy Security Network has a HIPAA calculator (below)
HIPAA Videos (below)

****************** [hipaalive] RE: Seminar/Conference
* * * * * First Conference references * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
Hipaadvisory has a Conference calendar at:
http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/calendar/index.htm

The NCHICA site (www.nchica.org) has a calendar of events (under News/Event
Calendar) and an assessment tool called "Early View" that may help you.

* * * * * Another Conference * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
There is a HIPAA conference scheduled for January 25th and 26th
at the Boston Marriott Burlington presented by CMHC Systems. For
more informatiom Email hipaaworkshop@cmhc.com or go to
www.cmhc.com.

* * * * * Another Conference * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
The American Health Lawyers Association (Health Info Technology section) is holding a conference starting
tomorrow (Dec. 7 and 8) in San Francisco. While the conference theme is larger than HIPAA alone, there are a
number of presentations on various aspects of HIPAA by a number of HIPAA luminaries, including one by
hipaalive's "own" Tom Hanks.

The conference is entitled: E-Health and the Information Age: Privacy, Security, Biotechnology and the Internet.
See info and the conference schedule at www.healthlawyers.org.

* * * * * Another Conference * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
The CLMA is hosting a seminar on January 19, 2001 in Charlotte, North
Carolina, entitled, "HIPAA Data Privacy and Data Security Standards: What Do
You Need to Know to Comply?"
http://www.clma.org/eventprog/education/showdesc.cfm

* * * * * Another Conference * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
We are pleased to announce the Rx2000 Institute and
the Illinois Association of HMOs are co-hosting a
major event titled "HIPAA - the eHealth Frontier."
This conference is designed to help you understand
what the HIPAA regulations mean to your organization,
your trading partners and the health care industry in
general:

WHAT: "HIPAA - the eHealth Frontier"
WHEN: December 14/15, 2000
WHERE: In Chicago at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and
     Towers

We have assembled an exceptional slate of national
leaders, policy experts and healthcare professionals
from the public and private sector. They will not only
present some of the most timely and important HIPAA-
related content of the year but will also provide you
with case studies and their own experiences.

HIPAA will affect every health care provider organization, payer, TPA, and clearinghouse. You cannot afford to miss this conference. The HIPAA regulations will require changes not only in your IT systems but also in the ways you conduct your business.

Just a few of our confirmed speakers include:

Joel Ackerman, Rx2000 Institute
Ronald Hoffman, Mutual of Omaha
Rick Telesca, Giga ePractices Research Group
Kathleen O'Connor, Author/Advisor to the Department
                of Health & Human Services
Dave Moertel, Mayo Foundation
Joe Broseker, Bill Gould & Dr. Barbara Paul, HCFA
Patrice Thaler, Allina Health System
Richard X. Fischer, Esq., Foley & Lardner in Chicago

Our speakers and panels will focus on:

- Preparing for HIPAA including tutorials for those
   new to the regulations
- Status and interpretation of healthcare security
   and privacy regulations
- A government perspective on the HIPAA regulations
- Organizational and legal implications of
   implementing the HIPAA regulations
- The latest insights in eHealth initiatives.

Registration for this 2-day conference is set at a very reasonable $250 for Rx2000 and IAHMO members and $325 for nonmembers if postmarked by 11/17/00. After 11/17/00, the cost is $350 for Rx2000 and IAHMO members and $425 for nonmembers . Please register now. An agenda and list of presenters is available at our website, at http://www.rx2000.org/events/events.htm.

You can also email me at jerickson@rx2000.org for more information.

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Rx2000 Institute
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**************** [hipaalive] RE: Approaches to HIPAA

        That's a huge question. There are volumes of books written on processes that do this very thing. There are a number of books out (search Risk Assessments or Risk Analysis or Security Risks) on Amazon.com. As far as costs - a good solution is to get a hold of an organization that performs technical and administrative risk assessments. This service is invaluable. Finding an organization that is good at it is another thing all together - and there are those who will charge $250.00 an hour or more. Be careful and choose wisely. I would make some recommendations via telephone if you want to call. They can do most if not all of this for you if they are good at what they do.

        You will have to go through a process to determine the criticality of each system you have. You also have to develop a "level of sensitivity" or "level of privacy" or "classification" of each data set. For instance, administrative e-mail and letters my only be a "company sensitive" piece of information, while patient records are "very sensitive" or "Privacy" information. Label them how you wish as long as the labels reflect a level

of sensitivity. Each system that contains each different type of sensitive data should be classified or identified at the highest level of data on that system.

Basically assessing risk breaks down to a mathematical equation. You need to develop a baseline to work from. Without going into it too deeply (again a phone call explains it better) you have to determine the vulnerabilities of your system and organization. This means a technical audit of your system (not penetration testing at this time!!!) to gather "technical" vulnerabilities. Then (or in conjunction with the technical audit) an administrative audit of your company to perform a document discovery that can identify policy and procedural holes. You break these things down, develop lists, correlate them to threats - which exercise or exploit vulnerabilities - and determine risk factors from these equations.

Now to comply with HIPAA you will have to do this for Information Systems Security, Personnel Security, and Physical Security (including Facilities Security). Therefore you have to review the entire organizational security structure. For small organizations, this can appear to be a daunting task.

There - Information Assurance in a nutshell. These assessments will produce the information you need to make the decisions concerning security and applying your unique capabilities and requirements to HIPAA. A good Risk Assessment consultant can also give you trends and recommend paths. There are organizations that have studied HIPAA security compliance very closely. They will use Industry Standard terminology (which differs slightly from HIPAA just as all other industries do) and industry standard security practices.

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*********************************** Rule Schedule
>>> MARTINC@hap2000.org 12/06/00 01:20PM >>>
Updated Schedule for Publication of
HIPAA Administrative Simplification Regulations

The following updated regulation schedule and comments are based on a presentation made by William Braithwaite, MD, PhD, Senior Advisor on Health Information Policy, Department of Health and Human Services, at the National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO) 15th Anniversary Meeting, in Washington D.C. on December 5, 2000.

Privacy Final Rule expected before January 1, 2001.
Security Final Rule expected First Quarter 2001.
National Provider Identifier Final Rule expected First Quarter 2001.
National Employer Identifier Final Rule expected First Quarter 2001.
National Health Plan Identifier Proposed Rule expected First Quarter 2001.
Claims Attachments Proposed Rule expected First Quarter 2001.
Doctor's First Notice of Injury Proposed Rule expected sometime in 2001.
Enforcement Proposed Rule expected by Late 2001.
National Individual Identifier Rule continues to be on hold.

Comments on Final HIPAA Privacy Rule - In commenting on the overwhelming number of comments received on the Privacy NPRM, Dr. Braithwaite said, "The fact that we are going to get the final rule out this month is amazing." He said that typical comments fro m the public accused the government of stripping away privacy rights that never existed. Additionally, he said that the onerous "minimum necessary rule" in the NPRM should be considered in light of practicality and technology limitations.

Comments on Final HIPAA Security Rule - Dr. Braithwaite said that we should not anticipate substantial changes from the security NPRM, however, many comments seemed to reflect a misinterpretation of the final rule as being overly prescriptive. While there will be approximately 18 security requirements and approximately 30 implementation features in the final rule, a reasonability standard should be applied when addressing them. If individual security requirements and features are not implemented, covered entities must document that they were

considered and why they were not implemented. The final security rule is expected to be "harmonized" with the final privacy regulations and will likely not include electronic signature language at this time.

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************ Assessment Tools and Conference Info ****************************

The NCHICA site (www.nchica.org) has a calendar of events (under News/Event Calendar) and an assessment tool called "Early View" that may help you.

************ HIPAA seems to apply to and Encounter Data *****************
It is included in the health care claims transaction. The actual language
refers to "health care claims or equivalent encounter information" and I
have included the language below and as you can see in 162.1101(b), that
there is broad treatment of what encounter information entails.

§ 162.1101 Health care claims or equivalent encounter information
transaction.
The health care claims or equivalent encounter information transaction is
the transmission of either of the following:
(a) A request to obtain payment, and the necessary accompanying information
from a health care provider
to a health plan, for health care.
(b) If there is no direct claim, because the reimbursement contract is based
on a mechanism other than charges or
reimbursement rates for specific services, the transaction is the
transmission of encounter information for the purpose of reporting health
care.

Thanks,

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********** Privacy Security Network has a HIPAA calculator ************

Addressing Cynthia's second question; Privacy Security Network has a HIPAA
calculator that is free. It asks questions and generates a recommendations
report. Check it out at Privacy Security Network
(http://www.privacysecuritynetwork.com/healthcare/default.cfm). I haven't
used EarlyView, so I don't know how it compares.

*********** HIPAA Videos ******************************
>>> <laxtell@co.slo.ca.us> 12/08/00 11:37AM >>>

In San Luis Obispo we purchased the 2 video tape series offered by Jonathan
Tomes via Veterans Press. The 4 hour video is the same as his presentation
in Marin county as far as content if you attended that meeting. The 50
minute executive summary is a good first step in exposing employees to
HIPAA. The videos are expensive: $194.95 + $6.95 S&H and $94.95 + $6.95
S&H. We were able to obtain both for 50% off. You can contact veterans

press at www.veteranspress.com or (913) 341-8783.

Lesley Axtell
County of San Luis Obispo
Automation Specialist

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